

HUROK CONCERTS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

220 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
 TELEPHONE (212) 828-8600

April 15, 1976

FAC
 DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

S
 SY

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
 Secretary of State
 The Department of State
 Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to seek your assistance with regard to a problem which could have significant repercussions in the relationships between our country and the Soviet Union. As you are aware, the Hurok organization has been a leader in promoting cultural exchange for many years. As a part of this endeavor we are bringing a Russian Festival of Dance, produced by Igor Moiseyev, to the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City for three weeks (June 28 through July 17) to be followed by a seven week tour of principal cities in the eastern United States.

Perhaps because of the long association of the Hurok organization with the Soviet Union our office has, on many occasions, been a target for various dissenting groups. On one occasion several years ago a bomb exploded in the Hurok office resulting in the death of an employee and several other serious injuries. Despite these difficulties we continue to believe in the importance of the role of cultural exchange and are dedicated to furthering the relationships between these two countries, particularly in times of increasing international tension.

Nevertheless, certain events in New York City in recent weeks involving the Jewish Defense League and a number of other organizations have prompted us to carefully reconsider all of the ramifications of the proposed visit. Just last week we received a threatening phone call which was duly reported to the New York City Police Department and the F.B.I. The call came on the same day as two cultural officials from the Soviet Union arrived in New York. While the timing of the call may be accidental, we cannot afford to take these kinds of risks lightly. Naturally, we are prepared to undertake certain private obligations with regard to our own security and that of our guests. However, in light of recent disturbances we are deeply concerned about the proposed tour and wish to explore the possibility of additional assistance provided by the Department of State and/or other federal, state and local agencies.

We are specifically requesting the assistance of the Department of State and your personal good offices to work with us to coordinate the most appropriate security measures for the approximately 200 Russians who will be here for ten weeks. We have initiated contacts with the New York City Police Department,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY MAC/MA DATE 3.13.81

INDEXED ☐ SUBSET ☐ DATE ☐
 TS AUTH ☐ REASON(S) ☐
 ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
 DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
 RELEASE DENIED ☐
 PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS ☐

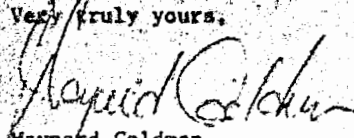
The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State

April 15, 1976
Page Two

but I believe that appropriate efforts from your Department would assist us immeasurably. Matters will be further complicated in July, 1976, because of the presence of the Democratic National Convention in New York.

Officials of Hurok Concerts will be available to meet, either in Washington or New York, with any of your associates should that be appropriate. In any event, we would very much appreciate any assistance that you or the Department can provide in this highly delicate matter.

Very truly yours,


Maynard Goldman

MG/sc